

Chairman Powell: Bell companies operate an "essential facility", and should have to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. This wholesale provisioning will stimulate competition and be of benefit to the consumers. To not do so would cripple the '96 Telecom Act. Again, I must repeat that without this competitive market, we in rural America will once again be denied access and genuine competition to the digital world. Do not allow this stranglehold to prevail.